

the equator, the true picture of a northern fir-wood. Soon however, as the tortuous rhinoceros-path greatly assists the ascent, these firs also leave us, and all the larger forest-trees disappear at about a height of 7000 feet. But now begins a variegated mixture of the most manifold and magnificent shrubs covering the acclivities, and the eye rests with rapture on the lovely blossom-covered bushes of *Gnaphalium javanicum* and *Hypericum javanicum*, Bl., of *Lonicera flavescens*, *Gaultheria punctata*, and others, under the shade of which the forms of northern plants, as *Valeriana*, *Ranunculus*, *Thalictrum*, *Swertia*, *Viola*, and *Plantago*, appear as old acquaintances. We now took our way through these bushes, and came, at near ten o'clock, to a small headland, from whence we looked down upon the clouds far below, appearing like a white moving sea: this headland resembles a plateau, which interrupts the continuous and steep side of the mountain; on the north-east it is bounded by a deep cleft, is moreover of only small extent, and soon rises again to the mountain-top, which is about 1000 feet higher. Beside small shrubs, it is especially overgrown with tall species of grass, amongst which several low-trodden rhinoceros-paths wind their course. But the acclivity of the mountain itself is clothed with small woods of a peculiar appearance, which ascend up nearly to the edge of the crater; in some tracts it is *Acacia montana* (Kamalandingang), whose slender stalks are pressed together; in others *Thibaudia varingiaefolia*, which we never saw so luxuriant and strong as here; it forms a shady wood, through which we made our way along a rhinoceros-path; its stems attain the thickness of a man's thigh up to that of a man's body, and rise in a sinuous, generally oblique direction, twenty to thirty feet high, before they branch out into the leafy crowns. The long *Usneæ*, which hang down from the branches—the thick layers of numerous mosses and lichens, which together fructifying in the most luxuriant manner, clothe the knotted sinuous stems—further, the enormous circumference of a species of plant which we are quite unused to meet with so large,—give to this forest an extraordinary, primæval, and as it were a solemn appearance. 'The ground in the wood is covered with grasses, among which here and there occurs a *Balanophora elongata*, Bl., which we found at such heights, parasitical on roots of *Thibaudia*.'

[To be continued.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.
Vol. ii. Parts 1 & 2. Edinburgh, 1845.

It will not be requisite that we should say anything more concerning this publication, since the papers contained in it are already known to our readers, they having appeared in vols. xi. to xvi. of these 'Annals.'

They are now resissued in the present form for the convenience of the Members of the Society, and in conformity with a resolution

passed on July 14th, 1842 (see Report of Bot. Soc. for that year, pp. 12 and 23), authorizing an arrangement to be made with the proprietors of this Journal, by which a much earlier publication of the papers is ensured to their author and the public, and also their ultimate distribution to the Members in a collected form is attained at a moderate expense to the Society.

Having heard it stated that some Members of the Society have obtained these Transactions under the idea that they contained previously unpublished papers, we have thought it right to call their attention to the above arrangement, and also, in justice to the authors of the papers, to add, that a large portion of the book has for many months been printed off, and that therefore it was not in their power to alter or cancel any part.

PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.

The British Desmidiæ, with coloured Figures of the Species.

By J. Ralfs, M.R.C.S.

The author proposes to describe all the British *Desmidiæ*, and as correct figures will be essential to make the descriptions of such minute objects intelligible, he will spare neither care nor expense in rendering the plates, which will be executed under his own eye, as accurate as possible.

The engravings will be on copper, since experience has proved that the delicate markings of the *Desmidiæ* cannot be sufficiently displayed by lithography.

Upwards of 100 species will be introduced, many of them either altogether new or now first noticed as British.

The conjugated state of the *Desmidiæ* is interesting, sometimes from its resemblance to the same state in the *Conjugatæ*, sometimes from the similarity of the spores to fossil bodies found in flint, and considered by Ehrenberg and other naturalists as species of *Xanthidium*. On these accounts, and also because few instances have been hitherto recorded, it is intended to give not only full details of the process, but as far as practicable to show the different stages by figures. Examples will be taken from one or more species in each of the following genera: *Gleoprium*, *Didymoprium*, *Micrasterias*, *Euastrum*, *Cosmarium*, *Xanthidium*, *Staurastrum*, *Tetmemorus* and *Closterium*.

As their animal nature has been maintained by many able writers, this question will be examined and sufficient reasons produced for considering the *Desmidiæ* to belong to the vegetable kingdom. Their modes of growth and other facts which may illustrate their œconomy will receive particular attention.

That nothing may be wanting to the utility of this monograph, the Introduction will contain ample directions for finding and gathering these minute plants and the different methods of mounting them for the microscope.

Subscribers' names received by the author, Penzance. Price to Subscribers One Guinea.

Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Vol. xvii.

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